

between the conductive extension and the clip is shown to be direct and without resistance. On page 4 of the specification, lines 12 and 13, the conductive extension is disclosed as being electrically engaged with the clip 24 by soldering, brazing, welding or crimping. Nothing in the specification or drawings teaches an electrical engagement which is other than a low resistance connection or shorting electrical engagement between the conductive extension and the clip.

The independent claims have been amended to clarify that the claimed invention is directed to wire connector with an electrically conductive clip which electrically joins two or more incoming wires having conductors. Thus, amended claims 1, 7 and 8 call for "a wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires...such that the conductive clip electrically joins each conductor of the two or more incoming wires" (claim 1) or "a method of electrically connecting two or more wires to a common terminus" (claims 7 and 8). In addition, the subject matter objected to under § 112 has been addressed.

In Escane 6,015,312 the connector 10 does not teach or suggest a wire connector which electrically joins two or more incoming wires. A pair of channels 26 formed on the outside surface of the main body 20 separately receive exchange wires 48. Each exchange wire 48 is pierced by an IDC tip 36 of an exchange connector 30 as the connector is pushed into the channel 26b. The electrical connection between the IDC tip 36 and the exchange wire 48 is electrically isolated by a head part 22 from adjacent wire connections. On the opposite end of the connector 10, jumper wires 50 are inserted into the recesses 42 and are pierced by an IDC tip 38 of a U-shaped contact 28 as a cap 24 is pushed downwardly. Each contact between the IDC tip 38 and its associated jumper wire 50 is electrically isolated from adjacent contacts by the cap 24. Each jumper IDC contact 28 is electrically connected to an individual IDC contact 30 and electrically isolated from adjacent jumper-exchange IDC contact 28, 30 pairs due to the insula-

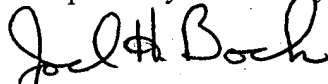
tive main body part 20. Each jumper wire 50 is therefore connected to only one exchange wire 48. Thus, it can be seen that Escane's connector does not provide an electrical engagement between two or more incoming wires.

Cummings 4,722,579 also does not teach a wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires. In Figs. 1-5, Cummings' tube 30 receives and pierces an individual wire between one or more sets of spring teeth 50. The surface of the tube 30 is surrounded by insulation material 40 so the tube cannot electrically engage adjacent wires. The connector 22 depicted in Fig. 6 is also contrary to applicant's claimed invention as this embodiment only shows the exterior of the tubes 30 and the accompanying disclosure in column 5, lines 45-54 states that this embodiment is configured in accordance with the first preferred embodiment. So the embodiment of Fig. 6 teaches that each pin coupler 62 is electrically connected only to one wire. In effect, Cummings does not provide any further teaching or suggestion than Escane.

The electrical terminal module 30 in Levy RE 35,476 includes a pair of identical electrical contact elements 44. The upper portion of the contact element 44 defines an insulation displacement portion 48 which is electrically connected to an individual conductor 12a of a drop wire 12 and which is received within a slotted passage in an intermediate support member 66. A lower portion 52 of the contact element 44 is received within segmented slotted openings 42 of a base 32 and is electrically connected to an individual conductor 14a of a stub cable 14. Both the base 32 and the intermediate support member 66 are comprised of insulative material with separate passages for each electrical contact element 44, as can be seen in Figs. 3-5. Each individual contact element 44 is electrically isolated from the other and connects only one drop wire conductor 12a to only one stub cable conductor 14a. Levy therefore does not teach a wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires.

It is submitted that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the application is resubmitted for reconsideration. A favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

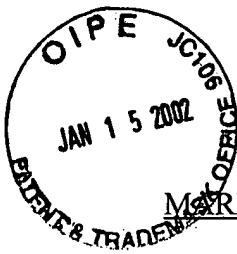


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MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice amended) A wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires having conductors, comprising:

a housing having walls defining a cavity therein with openings in the walls, said openings permitting the incoming wires to extend into the cavity;

an electrically conductive clip disposed in the cavity and held fixed in the housing by the walls, the clip having at least first and second retaining fingers each of which engages an individual conductor to hold the conductor fixed in the housing such that the conductive clip electrically joins each conductor of the two or more incoming wires; and

a conductive extension in shorting electrical engagement with the clip and extending through a housing wall to [the] an exterior of the housing.

Amend claim 7 to read as follows:

7. (Twice amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing a push-in wire connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to [the] an exterior of the housing, pushing [the] stripped ends of the conductors of the first and second wires into the housing and into engagement with the clip, and attaching the extension to said terminus.

Amend claim 8 to read as follows:

8. (Twice amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing an insulation displacement connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to [the] an exterior of the

housing, placing first and second wires adjacent the clip, closing the housing to force the wires' conductors into engagement with the clip, and attaching the extension to said terminus.